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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
38th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Chair: Rodger Cuzner.

Meeting No. 1

Thursday, November 4, 2004

MEMBER OF THE DAY:

The Clerk of the Subcommittee presided over the election of a Chair.

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:

Rodger Cuzner,
Jean-Claude D'Amours,
Yvon Godin,
Yves Lessard
and Peter Van Loan.

OTHER MEMBER PRESENT:

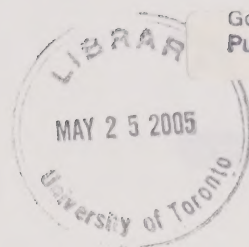
Paul Forseth.

ATTENDANCE:

Library of Parliament:
Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
38th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:

Rodger Cuzner,
Jean-Claude D'Amours,
Yvon Godin,
Yves Lessard
and Peter Van Loan.

OTHER MEMBER PRESENT:

Paul Forseth.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Library of Parliament:
Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

WITNESSES:

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Nancy Cheng, Assistant Auditor General;
Sheila Fraser, Auditor General of Canada.

Department of Finance:

Louis Lévesque, Associate Deputy Minister.

Office of the Auditor General of Canada:

Jean-Pierre Plouffe, Principal .

Department of Human Resources and Skills Development:

Andrew Treusch, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and
Planning;
James Bill, Director General, Employment Insurance Policy,
Employment Programs Policy and Design.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 1

Thursday, November 4, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met at 11:13 a.m. this day, in Room 209 West Block, for the purpose of electing a Chair.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

Other Members present: Paul Forseth.

In attendance: Library of Parliament: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Witnesses: Office of the Auditor General of Canada: Nancy Cheng, Assistant Auditor General; Sheila Fraser, Auditor General of Canada. *Department of Finance:* Louis Lévesque, Associate Deputy Minister. *Office of the Auditor General of Canada:* Jean-Pierre Plouffe, Principal. *Department of Human Resources and Skills Development:* Andrew Treusch, Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Planning; James Bill, Director General, Employment Insurance Policy, Employment Programs Policy and Design.

The Clerk of the Subcommittee presided over the election of a Chair.

On motion of Peter Van Loan, it was agreed, — That Rodger Cuzner be elected Chair of the Subcommittee.

Rodger Cuzner took the Chair.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities, October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee proceeded to study the issue of the employment insurances funds so that the money accumulated is only used for the employment insurance program in the interest of workers and tax payers.

Sheila Fraser, Louis Lévesque and Andrew Treusch made a statement and, with the other witnesses answered questions.

At 1:02 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 1:03 p.m., the Committee proceeded to discuss its future business.

It was agreed, — That the main Committee address the issue of whether main Committee members, who are not members of the Subcommittee, participate in the questioning of witnesses appearing before the Subcommittee.

It was agreed, — That the Subcommittee hear the suggested witnesses submitted by members of the

Subcommittee at this meeting including the four names which will be submitted by Jean-Claude D'Amours by Friday November 5th.

It was agreed, — That the Subcommittee met Monday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 17 and 24 at 3:15 p.m. to hear the aforementioned witnesses.

At 1:22 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/11/17 11:21 a.m.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 2

Monday, November 15, 2004

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) [and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:

Rodger Cuzner
Jean-Claude D'Amours
Yvon Godin
Yves Lessard
Peter Van Loan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parliamentary Information and Research Service:
Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

WITNESSES:

"Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec":
Marc Bellemare, Syndicate Counsellor;

René Roy, Secretary General.

Confederation of National Trade Unions:

France Bibeau, Union Counsellor, Work Relations Service;
Roger Valois, Vice-President, Executive Committee.

Canadian Labour Congress:

Kevin Hayes, Senior Economist, Social and Economic Policy;
Hassan Yussef, Senior Economist.

"Centrale des syndicats du Québec":

Mario Labbé, Employment Insurance and Pension Plans Advisor;
Pierre Séguin, Vice-President.

Georges Etoka
Committee Clerk

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 2

Monday, November 15, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met by videoconference at 7:21 p.m. this day, in Room 701 La Promenade Building, the Chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Witnesses: Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ): Marc Bellemare, Syndicate Counsellor. *Confederation of National Trade Unions:* France Bibeau, Union Counsellor, Work Relations Service. *Canadian Labour Congress:* Kevin Hayes, Senior Economist, Social and Economic Policy; Hassan Yussef, Senior Economist. *Centrale des syndicats du Québec:* Mario Labbé, Employment Insurance and Pension Plans Advisor. *Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ):* René Roy, Secretary General. *Centrale des syndicats du Québec:* Pierre Séguin, Vice President. *Confederation of National Trade Unions:* Roger Valois, Vice President, Executive Committee.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Committee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

Roger Valois, Pierre Séguin, René Roy and Hassan Yussef made an opening statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 8:59 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Georges Etoke
Committee Clerk

2004/11/16 3:38 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
38th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 3

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) [and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:

Rodger Cuzner,
Jean-Claude D'Amours,
Yvon Godin,
Yves Lessard
and Peter Van Loan.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parliamentary Information and Research Service:
Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

WITNESSES:

Canadian Construction Association:
Michael Atkinson, President.

Canadian Council of Chief Executives:

Sam Boutziouvis, Vice-President, Policy and Director of Research.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce:

Robert McKinstry, Policy Analyst;

Michael Murphy, Senior Vice-President, Policy.

Canadian Federation of Independent Business:

André Piché, Director, National Affairs.

Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association:

Joyce Reynolds, Senior Vice-President, Government Affairs.

Canadian Construction Association:

Dennis Ryan, Senior Director, Industry, Human Resources.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 3

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met at 3:26 p.m. this day, in Room 701 La Promenade Building, the Chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Witnesses: *Canadian Construction Association:* Michael Atkinson, President. *Canadian Council of Chief Executives:* Sam Boutziouvis, Vice-President, Policy and Director of Research. *Canadian Chamber of Commerce (The):* Robert McKinstry, Policy Analyst; Michael Murphy, Senior Vice-President, Policy. *Canadian Federation of Independent Business:* André Piché, Director, National Affairs. *Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association:* Joyce Reynolds, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs. *Canadian Construction Association:* Dennis Ryan, Senior Director, Industry, Human Resources.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

The witnesses made statements and answered questions.

At 5:12 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/11/19 9:36 a.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
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RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 4

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:

Rodger Cuzner
Jean-Claude D'Amours
Yvon Godin
Yves Lessard
Peter Van Loan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parliamentary Information and Research Service:
Chantal Collin, Analyst;
Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

WITNESSES:

New Brunswick Federation of Labour:

John Gagnon, Member of the Executive Council.

Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Canadian Office:

Robert Blakely, Director of Canadian Affairs;
Carol MacLeod, Executive Director, Government Affairs & Communications.

“Mouvement autonome et solidaire des sans-emploi (réseau québécois)”:

Sébastien Duclos, Coordinator.

South-East N.B. Committee for Changes to Employment Insurance:

Gilles LeBlanc, Fish Plant Owner;
Robert MacKay, Employee, Fish (Lobster) Plant.

Study Committee on Seasonal Work:

Normand Carrier, President;
Gérald Clavette, Member.

As Individuals:

Paul Gagnon
Rodrigue Landry.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 4

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met by videoconference at 3:28 p.m. this day, in Room 701 La Promenade Building, the Chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Chantal Collin, Analyst; Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Witnesses: New Brunswick Federation of Labour: John Gagnon, Member of the Executive Council. *Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO, Canadian Office:* Robert Blakely, Director of Canadian Affairs; Carol MacLeod, Executive Director, Government Affairs & Communications. *Mouvement autonome et solidaire des sans-emploi (réseau québécois):* Sébastien Duclos, Coordinator. *South-East N.B. Committee for Changes to Employment Insurance:* Gilles LeBlanc, Fish Plant Owner; Robert MacKay, Employee, Fish (Lobster) Plant. *Study Committee on Seasonal Work:* Normand Carrier, President; Gérald Clavette, Member. *As an Individual:* Roger Landry.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

John Gagnon, Robert Blakely, Sébastien Duclos, Gilles LeBlanc and Normand Carrier made a statement and, with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 5:01 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 5:06, the Subcommittee proceeded to sit *in camera*.

The Subcommittee proceeded to give drafting instructions to the researcher for its report on the Employment Insurance Funds.

At 6:08 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/11/25 1:54 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
38th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 5

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

IN CAMERA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 5

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met *in camera* at 3:29 p.m. this day, in Room 536 Wellington Building, the Acting Chair, Jean-Claude D'Amours, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

Acting Members present: Marc Godbout for Rodger Cuzner.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

The Subcommittee proceeded to study its draft report.

At 5:29 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/12/02 4:12 p.m.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 6

Thursday, December 2, 2004

IN CAMERA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 6

Thursday, December 2, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met *in camera* at 11:19 a.m. this day, in Room 536 Wellington Building, the chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

Acting Members present: Ed Komarnicki for Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

The Subcommittee proceeded to study its draft report.

At 2:00 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/12/02 4:13 p.m.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 7

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds

MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE PRESENT:

Rodger Cuzner
Jean-Claude D'Amours
Yvon Godin
Yves Lessard
Peter Van Loan

ACTING MEMBER PRESENT:

Barry Devolin for Peter Van Loan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parliamentary Information and Research Service:
Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

WITNESSES:

Department of Human Resources and Skills Development:

Malcolm Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Employment Program
Policy and Design;

Bill James, Director General, Employment Insurance Policy;

Rick Stewart, Director General, Labour Market Policy.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 7

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met *in camera* at 11:04 a.m. this day, in Room 209 West Block, the Chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

Acting Members present: Barry Devolin for Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Witnesses: Department of Human Resources and Skills Development: Malcolm Brown, Assistant Deputy Minister, Employment Program Policy and Design; Bill James, Director General, Employment Insurance Policy; Rick Stewart, Director General, Labour Market Policy.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

Malcom Brown made a statement and with the other witnesses, answered questions.

At 11:59 a.m., the sitting was suspended.

At 12:07 a.m., the Subcommittee resumed its sitting in camera to consider its draft report.

At 1:49 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/12/08 1:20 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA
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EVIDENCE

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
FUNDS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

Chair: Rodger Cuzner, Lib.

Meeting No. 8

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

IN CAMERA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 8

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met *in camera* at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 536 Wellington Building, the Chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Parliamentary Information and Research Service: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

The Subcommittee proceeded to consider its draft report.

At 5:37 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2004/12/09 10:18 a.m.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 9

Monday, December 13, 2004

The Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities met *in camera* at 3:33 p.m. this day, in Room 536 Wellington Building, the Chair, Rodger Cuzner, presiding.

Members of the Subcommittee present: Rodger Cuzner, Jean-Claude D'Amours, Yvon Godin, Yves Lessard and Peter Van Loan.

In attendance: Library of Parliament: Kevin Kerr, Analyst.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the Subcommittee on October 21, 2004, the Subcommittee resumed its study of the Employment Insurance Funds.

The Subcommittee proceeded to consider its draft report.

It was agreed, — That the draft report “Restoring Financial Governance and accessibility in the Employment Insurance Program” (as amended), be adopted as the First Report of the Subcommittee on the Employment Insurance Funds of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills Development, Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

That the Clerk be authorized to make such editorial and typographical changes as necessary without changing the substance of the Report.

At 5:54 p.m., the Subcommittee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Danielle Bélisle
Clerk of the Subcommittee

2005/03/04 9:50 a.m.

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